

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

PAYING TRIBUTE TO DR. EMIL
FREI III

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Emil Frei III, one of the world's leading oncologists, a pioneer in cancer treatment and chemotherapy, and a leader in clinical research.

Dr. Frei's medical career began over 50 years ago in 1948 while serving in our country's V-12 program for the United States Navy. Since that time he has served as the chief of medicine at the National Cancer Institute, associate scientific director head at M.D. Anderson, and director and physician-in-chief at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Currently, he serves as the physician-in-chief, emeritus at Dana-Farber. Dr. Frei has the proud honor of being the first Richard and Susan Smith Distinguished Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School.

Since the beginning of his career, Dr. Frei has made many contributions to the medical field while serving on the advisory or board of directors for non-profit organizations such as Adherex Technologies, Angstrom, CaP Cure, Celator Pharmaceuticals, DIAD Research, Immunogen, Infinity Pharmaceuticals, Vion Pharmaceuticals, Aid for Cancer Research, Cancer Research Institute, Journal of Clinical Oncology and the New England Journal of Medicine. In addition to these wonderful achievements, he was awarded the Lasker Award, the Kettering Prize and the Inaugural Lifetime Achievement Award for his clinical research for cancer treatment.

Dr. Frei not only practiced medicine, but also served as a professor of medicine at the University of Texas and Harvard Medical School for over 30 years. Dr. Frei also coauthored the first text in medical oncology, which is now in its seventh edition.

Dr. Frei is continuing his research in the Las Vegas area where he serves on the chapter board of Southern Nevada Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. He has previously served as the chairman of the Cancer and Leukemia Group B clinical research group.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Dr. Frei for his dedication to improving the life of others through his service in the medical community and advances in the chemotherapy and cancer research. I applaud his efforts and wish him the best with his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PASSING
OF M.J. MENGE

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is with sadness that I rise today to note the

passing of a man whose legacy will forever be remembered. For over 40 years, M.J. Menge has served his community as an attorney and dedicated leader in Pensacola, a city in my district in Northwest Florida.

A native Floridian born in 1936, Mr. Menge devoted his life's work to bettering our community. At a young age he demonstrated his leadership skills while attending Pensacola Junior College and the University of Florida. After attending Navy Officer Candidate School, he went on to serve as a naval gunner officer on the USS *Sarsfield* until 1962. Mr. Menge then earned a law degree from the University of Florida in 1964 and joined the Pensacola law firm of Shell, Fleming, Davis, and Menge. He was well respected by his colleagues for his integrity and concern for the law. Mr. Menge served as general legal counsel Pensacola Junior College for nearly 30 years, and in 1998 a bell tower was erected in his honor. Through his different leadership roles within the community, he became known as a man with a genuine sense of caring who fostered that sense into those with whom he came into contact.

M.J. Menge's service to Northwest Florida extended far beyond the legal profession. He was also known throughout the community for his leadership roles within the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce, Baptist Hospital, and March of Dimes. In 1969, Mr. Menge was named One of Florida's Five Outstanding Young Men by the Florida Jaycees. He was recognized again in 1979, as the Community Leader of the Year by the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce, and later honored with the Spirit of Pensacola Award in 1996. He had been an active member in the Trinity Presbyterian Church and served as a devoted member to a number of civic organizations including Rotary International, Navy League, and Fiesta of Five Flags. Though suffering from cancer for the last 7 years, the genuineness and the inspiration he had brought to those around him continued to thrive.

1Madam Speaker, on behalf of the U.S. Congress, I would like to offer my sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Menge. They, along with their community, have suffered a great loss. Mr. Menge served as a model for so many, and I am confident that many will remember him fondly and model their actions in life on what he showed them through his life.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SUSAN B.
ANTHONY BIRTHDAY ACT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today—along with Democratic colleagues, Congresswoman LOIS CAPPS, co-chair of the Congressional Caucus on Wom-

en's issues and Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE—I am introducing the Susan B. Anthony Birthday Act, which will designate the third Monday in February as a day to celebrate the legacy of Susan B. Anthony. Susan Brownell Anthony is remembered for creating the first women's movement in the United States and leading that movement for more than 50 years.

Born on February 15, 1820, Susan B. Anthony met Elizabeth Cady Stanton in 1851 and attended her first women's rights convention in Syracuse in 1852, where she joined the fight to get women the right to vote, arguing that, "the right women needed above every other . . . was the right of suffrage." The first proposal for women's suffrage was presented to Congress in 1868 and Susan B. Anthony appeared before every Congress from 1869 to 1906 to ask for passage of a suffrage amendment. She served as the president of the National Woman Suffrage Association from 1892 until 1900.

The first formal women's suffrage amendment to the Constitution of the United States was introduced in January 1878 and was subsequently introduced in every session of Congress for the next 41 years. Before her death on March 13, 1906, Susan B. Anthony's last public words were, "Failure is impossible."

Unfortunately, Susan B. Anthony did not live to realize her dream of women's suffrage, but thankfully her legacy survives. On May 21, 1919, the House of Representatives passed the 19th amendment, and two weeks later, the Senate followed. The Secretary of State, Bainbridge Colby, certified the ratification on August 26, 1920. The text of the 19th amendment is: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

The United States has previously recognized Susan B. Anthony's tremendous contribution to our Nation. A marble statue of her and her women's rights colleagues, Lucretia Mott and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, was dedicated in the United States Capitol in 1921. Susan B. Anthony's picture appeared on postage stamps in 1936 and 1955. Her home in Rochester, New York, has been a National Historic Landmark since 1966, and in 1979, her image was placed on a dollar coin.

No Federal holiday celebrates the birthday of a woman. As the founder and leader of the women's movement in the United States, Susan B. Anthony deserves a permanent place in our history. The Susan B. Anthony Birthday Act will allow all women and men in the United States to celebrate and honor her legacy.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 100TH
BIRTHDAY OF LUCILLE COCHRAN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a very special occasion today for a constituent of mine—Mrs. Lucille Cochran's 100th birthday. Mrs. Cochran will gather with her friends and family to mark the occasion on February 9, 2007.

Lucille "Mama Cill" Cochran was born in Lee County, Alabama, where she resides today with her loving family and church community. "Mama Cill" credits long life to her faith and trust in God. This mother of 9, grandmother of 35, and great grandmother of 77, enjoys entertaining her family in her kitchen where she serves her Alabama nugget baked sweet potatoes and coffee.

Mrs. Cochran's vibrant personality and active life make her an important part of her community. In her own special way, she serves as a shining example for us all. On this special occasion, I salute this remarkable woman for her long life, and her dedication to family.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO PHIL
MARCUS ESSER

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Phil Marcus Esser for work on behalf of the Boulder City Community.

Phil is a very accomplished folk singer and musical producer and has been a resident of Boulder City Nevada for the past six years. Since moving to Boulder City, Phil has immersed himself in charitable and community orientated projects, most notably as the choir director for St. Andrew's Church.

Most recently, Phil performed at the Boulder City American Legion Hall, raising over \$4000 for Emergency Aid of Boulder City. This show was the first in a series of four such performances intending to support a local cause.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Phil Marcus Esser. His work on behalf of the local community is admirable and I applaud his efforts.

RECOGNIZING TAVIA MAREZ AS
OKALOOSA COUNTY'S TEACHER
OF THE YEAR

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize Tavia Marez as Okaloosa County's Teacher of the Year.

On January 30, 2007, Tavia Marez was announced Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Marez joined the school district administration in

1997 with an educational background in Genetics and Developmental Biology and as a former researcher at Johns Hopkins University. Over the past 10 years, Mrs. Marez has proudly served the school district, and Okaloosa County is honored to have her as one of their own.

Tavia Marez currently teaches Advanced Placement (AP) Chemistry at Fort Walton Beach High School in Fort Walton Beach, FL. Mrs. Marez is aware that if her students are anything like she once was, she must make Chemistry enjoyable. To get her students interested, Tavia Marez incorporates creative techniques, such as: songs, dances, and mnemonic devices.

At the same time, to ensure that she is giving her students the best preparation needed to succeed, Mrs. Marez keeps in constant communication with the AP College Board and college chemistry professors. Ten weeks prior to the AP Chemistry exam, you can find Mrs. Marez on Saturdays offering extra help to her students, who in turn mentor elementary school students from Edwins Elementary School. Since Mrs. Marez began teaching AP Chemistry, the percentage of students who pass the AP exam drastically increased from around 0 percent to 70 and the number of students taking the course from 12 to 75.

To be honored as Teacher of the Year, the proof of greatness lies well beyond the title—it lies in the hearts and minds of the students who have been deeply affected. While Mrs. Marez humbly credits her fellow colleagues with helping her get to where she is today, it is her spirit, dedication and passion for teaching, which she has developed over the past 10 years that has won her the honor of this distinguished award.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to recognize Mrs. Marez for her great achievement as Teacher of the Year and her continuing commitment to excellence at Fort Walton Beach High School and in the Okaloosa County School District.

TRIBUTE TO SERGEANT
ALEXANDER HENRY FULLER

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in honoring the life and service of one of America's fallen heroes, Sergeant Alexander Henry Fuller, who gave his life to his country while serving in Iraq. I rise so that the House of Representatives can join me in conveying our deepest condolences to his wonderful wife Stacey and to his entire family.

Alex died on January 25 at the age of twenty one, while serving in Iraq. He came from New Bedford and was raised on Cape Cod. He soon fell in love with Stacey and together they were married. Today Stacey is expecting their child. Alex had dreams of someday owning a house on Cape Cod, working as a police officer and raising a family.

But he was a young man with a mission. He had another priority in his life, to answer the call of service to his country. He loved his

country and he loved serving in the Army, and in the 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division based in Fort Carson Colorado. Each and every American owes him and his family a great debt of gratitude. The courage he demonstrated through his service will always be remembered.

I wish to join with my colleagues in expressing our condolences to his family and friends. We hope and pray that they find peace and comfort during this most difficult time.

Sean Gonsalves, a reporter from the Cape Cod Times wrote a moving tribute that I wish to share with you.

'WE COULDN'T BE PROUDER'

(By Sean Gonsalves)

One had a Bible in his hand.

The other Army officer carried the news Anastacia "Stacey" Fuller and her husband's adopted family had been losing sleep over—wondering if their hero, Army Sgt. Alexander Henry Fuller, was alive.

He was not, they were informed late Thursday night.

Yesterday, Sgt. Fuller's 19-year-old widow still seemed disoriented, as if the repercussions from the improvised explosive device that killed Fuller and another member of his convoy in Baghdad had reverberated across the Atlantic Ocean, all the way to the Centerville home the 21-year-old soldier had shared with his wife and in-laws.

Pfc. Michael C. Balsley, 23, of Hayward, Calif., was also killed in Thursday's explosion, according to the Department of Defense.

Stacey Fuller wasn't sure if her husband's remains were in Maryland or Delaware. She wasn't sure when his casket would be brought home to Cape, or when the funeral and burial would be held.

All she knew was that the father of her yet-unborn daughter was "fearless" and had "a huge heart."

Sitting in the showroom of her family's used-car dealership on Yarmouth Road in Hyannis, Stacey Fuller rested her hands on her bulging belly as the small flags lining the awning outside flapped in the winter wind.

"He was very determined. He always said, 'I need to help my Joes,'" she recalled, explaining the love he had for the Fort Carson, Colo.-based 3rd Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division.

"We tried to talk him out of going because of how dangerous it is, but we couldn't," said Fuller's mother-in-law, Irena Zinov.

Fuller, who was born in New Bedford and raised in Centerville, saw the Army as the best way to prepare for becoming a police officer.

Fuller's legacy was his concern for others, his uncle Robert Mogavero of Millis said in a phone interview yesterday.

"At the same time, he had a great zest for life. Some kids have plans that are a little far-fetched, but his head was screwed on straight. His plans were not beyond his reach," he said.

Mogavero described Fuller as a soldier "dedicated to God and country." "As a soldier he was exemplary, and we couldn't be prouder of him as a family."

Zach Hallet of Osterville remembered his best friend as the toughest, funniest person he's known.

"And he believed in what he was doing. He was proud of being a sergeant and he was proud of being a leader."

Hallet also described his fallen friend as "fearless"—a trait his wife said she'll call on in the months ahead as she prepares to give birth in April.

Besides his wife and unborn daughter, Fuller is survived by his mother, Linda; a sister, Katie, and two brothers, Christopher and Sean.

The family has set up a memorial fund for the benefit of his daughter.

TRIBUTE TO BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Madam Speaker, it is with a great sense of honor that I rise to celebrate Black History Month and its 2007 theme—From Slavery to Freedom: Africans in the Americas. As we recall the many struggles and reflect on the immense impact African-Americans have had on this country, we are reminded that, though we have made great strides, we must continue the fight for a society that is truly equal.

The theme for this year's Black History Month, From Slavery to Freedom: Africans in the Americas, is a reminder that in striving for equality, we must examine the past. We remember those brought to America against their will, forced into slavery, working under the most inhumane conditions. From this, however, we are reminded of those who recognized this atrocity and made the decision to fight for their freedom. We pay special tribute to those who were persecuted, and in many cases murdered, for their impassioned struggle for what was right. From the earliest men and women forced into slavery to the brave soldiers, both free and enslaved, who joined forces to eventually defeat the Confederacy, thus establishing their own freedom, all are to be commended with the highest admiration and praise. Without these struggles, President Abraham Lincoln's reminder of our founding fathers' goal, the establishment of a new Nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal, would not be possible.

It is the efforts of these brave individuals that would inspire the great leaders of the civil rights movement, like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Rosa Parks, to persevere and make great strides toward this goal. Some of these leaders, like many before them, would face similar persecution. Some, like Dr. King, would pay the ultimate price in hopes that one day all Americans would be seen as equals. We are aware, however, that as a united society, we must continue to make strides like those generations who came before us. From the days of slavery to the days of segregation, we must continue to work toward a society that is truly equal, a society with equal rights, equal justice, and equal opportunities.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the brave men and women who have led us in the ongoing fight for justice and equality. Let us take this opportunity to honor the sacrifices and contributions of all Americans who have fought for their freedom and the freedom of others. This commitment to equality, opportunity, and an end to discrimination is to be admired.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LANCE CORPORAL BUDD M. COTE

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Lance Corporal Budd M. Cote, who died Monday December 11, 2006, of injuries sustained in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Lance Corporal Cote was killed by an explosive device in al-Anbar province during combat operations. He was assigned to the Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 stationed out of the Marine Corps Air Station in Miramar, CA.

Lance Corporal Budd Cote was born in Corona, CA, on June 27, 1985. He spent his childhood in the Las Vegas valley before moving to Tucson, AZ, where he attended high school.

Lance Corporal Cote was a hero whose desire to serve his country will forever make an impact on his family, his community and his country. He joined the U.S. Marine Corps to serve his country in the Global War on Terror. He will not only be remembered for his sacrifice and willing service, but for the extraordinary person that he was. His warmth and optimism brightened the lives of his family and friends. He is survived by his loving wife, Zoraida, his parents, Marcella and Roland Cote and siblings, Alex, Christopher and Tiffany.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor the life of Lance Corporal Budd M. Cote. Lance Corporal Budd M. Cote made the ultimate sacrifice for his country while fighting the War on Terror and defending democracy and freedom.

TRIBUTE TO PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT ROGER WILLIAM POWELL OF ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Ms. BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Roger William Powell, a native of Montrose, MI who volunteered for the U.S. Army on January 22, 1969. Assigned as a mechanic, Mr. Powell was sent to Vietnam on June 22, 1969, with an armor recon specialty where he became a part time scout driver and machine gun operator. Assigned to E Troop, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 11th Infantry Brigade, his base camp was Chu Lie.

On August 8, 1969, his troop was in the field in Quang Ngai when they came under hostile fire from Viet Cong forces. Rocket propelled grenades landed amongst the troops, with Mr. Powell sustaining shrapnel wounds in his right eye, both hands and arms and a perforated eardrum. transferred by Medivac helicopter to an evacuation hospital in Japan, he remained under medical care for three months. A purple heart was noted on his record but not awarded, as Mr. Powell was not at that facility a sufficient time for the paperwork to be processed.

Following his recovery from his injuries, he was reassigned stateside to Ft. Knox, KY. Mr. Powell then volunteered for duty in Germany

where he remained until his discharge on January 14, 1971.

Currently residing in Zephyrhills, Florida, Mr. Powell and his wife, Tansy, have three grown children; 32-year-old Scott, 30-year-old Shalynnee and 26-year-old Shelby, all of whom reside in Michigan.

After almost 38 years, it is my distinct honor and privilege to present Mr. Powell with his long-awaited Purple Heart.

Madam Speaker, soldiers like Roger William Powell should be recognized for their service to our Nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. Powell with his long overdue Purple Heart. He should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

HONORING BORDEN BYRD

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Borden Byrd for his heroic effort to save a possible collision between two jets on August 24, 2006.

Mr. Byrd is the air traffic controller at DFW TRACON (DIO), one of the control towers for the Dallas-Fort Worth International airport. As DFW is among the top three busiest airports in the Nation, the controllers must be focused and attentive at all times to ensure safe and smooth air traffic. If it were not for Mr. Byrd's immediate reaction and sharp eye, two jets, an American Airlines MD80 and a United Express regional jet, might have collided last August.

That day, the regional jet's pilots had entered an incorrect runway into the Flight Management System, which put the jet directly into the path of the MD80. Luckily, Mr. Byrd noticed the anticipated trajectory paths for the jets and directed the regional jet immediately to the west, out of the path of the MD80. His careful watch and proactive character saved numerous lives that day.

It is with great honor that I recognize Mr. Borden Byrd for his exceptional service not only to Dallas-Fort Worth International airport, but also to our community. His knowledge and dedication to air safety prevented a great tragedy from occurring, and I join his family and friends in congratulating him on this heroic affair.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO BONNIE SCHOFIELD

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I honor Mrs. Bonnie Schofield for her dedication to the community and families she served.

Bonnie has been serving 79 families in Hiko, NV, as a postmaster since 1973, 6 hours a day, 6 days a week. Bonnie's families picked their mail up at the Post Office in front of her house in an old-fashioned way. Instead of using the modern-day post office boxes, the mail was sorted into old-fashioned sacks

Bonnie handmade herself and then hung onto pegs. Families would then pick up their mail while the traditions of past generations stayed intact.

For the 30 years prior to her appointment as postmaster, Bonnie's mother-in-law held the position. Her daughter also continues the family tradition, for she was named postmaster for 2004 in Alamo, NV. Bonnie also has served the National Association of Postmasters of the U.S., NAPUS, as State president, on its State council, and representing Nevada in Washington, DC.

On December 1, 2006, Bonnie retired from her position as postmaster and, with her, lay to rest the traditions of Hiko's community. What she will miss the most is the customer interaction and personalized service. Now that she is retired, she plans on nurturing her garden and traveling with her husband of 49 years. Bonnie also plans on spending more time with her 4 children, 18 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the gracious efforts of Mrs. Bonnie Schofield. Her diligence and dedication are those to be admired. I wish her luck with all her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR MANUEL DIAZ

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I congratulate Mayor Manuel Diaz of Miami for receiving the "Outstanding American by Choice" award on January 24, 2007 at the White House.

The "Outstanding American by Choice" award recognizes the achievements of naturalized U.S. citizens who, through civic participation, professional achievement and responsible citizenship, have demonstrated their commitment to this country and to common civic values. The award is given to citizens who have made significant contributions to their community and to this country.

Mayor Diaz was born on November 5, 1954 in Havana, Cuba and immigrated to the United States with his mother, Elisa, in 1961. He grew up in Miami's Little Havana neighborhood and attended Belen Jesuit Prep School, Miami-Dade College, Florida International University and the University of Miami's School of Law.

Mayor Diaz was elected as mayor of the city of Miami in 2001 and re-elected to a second term in 2005. He has led the effort to reform Miami city government, improve public schools, and bring increased investment and business opportunities to Miami. Vanity Fair magazine has honored Mayor Diaz, calling him one of North America's leading environmentally conscious mayors. In recognition of his accomplishments, Mayor Diaz was honored by his fellow mayors and elected chair of the Advisory Board of the United States Conference of Mayors in 2006.

Mayor Diaz's achievements should make all Americans proud that, in this Nation of immigrants, success in life is attainable through hard work and the desire to achieve great dreams.

INTRODUCTION OF RESOLUTION REGARDING 9/11 HEALTH ISSUES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, as a next step in the long fight to ensure that the heroes of 9/11 get the medical monitoring and treatment they need and deserve, today with my colleague Rep. VITO FOSSELLA, I am introducing a resolution urging the Administration to prepare a comprehensive plan to medically monitor all individuals—responders, residents, area workers and school children—who were exposed to the toxins of Ground Zero on 9/11 and to treat all those who are sick as a result.

A peer-reviewed study released last year by the World Trade Center Medical Monitoring Program found that 70 percent of 9/11 responders have suffered from respiratory ailments and 60 percent are still sick. Among those screened, 40 percent do not have health insurance. A study previously published by the New York City Fire Department documented a 12-year lung capacity loss, on average, among New York City firefighters who responded to the World Trade Center.

Despite these well-documented illnesses and lack of medical insurance, only a fraction of 9/11 responders, area residents, workers and school children are being medically monitored. Far fewer are receiving the treatment they need. Even worse, the first federal funding for treatment of responders, which was distributed in October 2006, is projected to run out sometime this summer—just months after the treatment program began.

I am pleased that the Administration has, for the first time ever, included funding in the FY2008 budget for health treatment for sick and injured 9/11 first responders. However, the \$25 million included will cover just a small fraction of the cost of monitoring and treating the thousands exposed to the toxins of Ground Zero. I am also pleased that the Administration has finally said that HHS will be producing an estimate for the health needs of first responders—but only first responders. Quite simply, a plan that takes into account only first responders is not sufficient. The hundreds of thousands of area residents, workers, school children and federal employees who are in need of monitoring and treatment deserve to be included in any plan put forth by HHS.

I am hopeful that Congress will be taking direct action in the coming weeks and months to fund current treatment and monitoring programs as well as expand those programs to include all affected residents, school children, area workers and rescue workers who came to New York from across the country after 9/11. As we work together toward bolder action, I believe this resolution urging the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a comprehensive plan is an important first step in focusing the Administration's attention on the health needs of all the heroes of 9/11.

HONORING THE CITY OF PIEDMONT

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mrs. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Piedmont on the occasion of its Centennial Celebration.

Prior to its incorporation as a city in 1907, Piedmont was comprised of lands owned by individuals such as Don Luis Peralta, Walter Blair and James Gamble. During the late 1800s, Mr. Blair bought 600 acres of land from the Peraltas. He built a dairy on Highland Avenue, a quarry, a hotel and an amusement park known as Blair Park.

In 1877 James Gamble, the president of Western Union Telegraph, bought 350 acres from Mr. Blair. He built a house on Hillside Avenue and planned to sell the rest of the land so others could build houses as well. He called his business the Piedmont Land Company, which he felt was appropriate for the new community due to the fact that Piedmont means "foot of the mountain" in Italian.

In the 1880s there were only seven houses where the City of Piedmont is now. During the same time Piedmont had its first and only factory, the Ladies Silk Culture Society. Over 100 women worked spinning thread from the cocoons of silk worms that grew on the mulberry trees, but ultimately there weren't enough trees and the factory closed in 1895.

While major landowners were building large houses in the middle of Piedmont during the early 20th century, many artists and writers lived in smaller houses they built themselves on Scenic Avenue. Jack London, Xavier Martinez and George Sterling all lived in the hills of Piedmont during the early 1900s.

On April 18, 1906, the infamous San Francisco earthquake rocked the Bay Area, sending thousands of city residents across the Bay into the surrounding communities. Many of those who fled the destruction in San Francisco at that time came to Oakland, Berkeley and Piedmont, which grew 10 times larger in one year as a result.

On January 7, 1907, Hugh Craig and James Ballentine filed papers with the State of California to incorporate the City of Piedmont. An election was held on January 26, 1907 and 118 men who owned land in Piedmont voted to become a city. Some residents were displeased with this result, however, and another election was held in September of the same year; the result held and Piedmont became a city by a mere 10 votes. Vamey Gaskill became the first mayor of Piedmont, but only served for three months. In May of 1907 Hugh Craig became the second mayor of the city and is considered by many to be the "father" of Piedmont. Piedmont City Hall was built in 1908.

Over the past century, the City of Piedmont has developed a governmental organization that provides its citizens with an exceptionally high level of municipal and educational services by partnering an exceptional staff with a tradition of generous community volunteerism. The residents of Piedmont have a history of service and leadership that extends from local to international endeavors. Their work contributes immeasurably to the quality of life here in

California's 9th Congressional District and beyond, and it is my pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of Piedmont's residents on the occasion of its Centennial Celebration.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 31, 2007

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this continuing resolution and want to thank the Chairman, Mr. OBEY, for his leadership and that of his staff. Indeed, in the last few weeks alone, I think we have seen more leadership and more courage than we saw at any time in the last 6 years. You made hard choices—unpopular choices. But you took the first steps toward restoring fiscal discipline and order to a process that for too long had been broken.

And so, Mr. OBEY, I want to thank you—for reminding us that our first obligation is not to the special interests, but to the American people. To the business of governing responsibly. I am honored to call you my Chairman.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is only being considered for one reason and one reason alone—and that is because when the Republican majority left town last year they did so without passing a single domestic appropriations bill. No funding for health care. No funding for our veterans or our seniors. That is what the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars got them last year—nothing.

And so, I would say to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle—you had your chance to make this an open, transparent, functioning process. You had your opportunity to crack down on earmarks and special interests. You had that opportunity last year—for the last 6 years. And you squandered it and left a mess.

This bill is but the first few steps Democrats are taking toward cleaning up the mess left by the previous majority. It is by no means a perfect process. We are under no illusions. But by suspending this institution's broken earmark process, we have an opportunity to look toward next year with some optimism. Indeed, we used this opportunity to strengthen our capacity to respond to the needs of the public and restore funding to a few key priorities that had for too long been neglected by the previous majority.

This is true in area after area—first and foremost, with respect to our troops. Under this bill, men and women wounded in action in Iraq and Afghanistan will receive the health care they need, as will 325,000 additional veterans. We have restored some funding for Head Start and early childhood education, for special education and for Pell Grants which will help 5.3 million students pay for college. And by providing an additional \$125 million for the President's underfunded, undermanned No Child Left Behind program, we can begin to help 6,700 underachieving schools turn around. So, too, are we restoring funding to the National Institutes of Health, which the previous majority cut for the first time in 36 years. This bill supports an additional 500 research project grants, 1,500 first-time inves-

tigators, and expands funding for high risk and high impact research—the future of medicine.

As the chair of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, I am pleased we were able to hold the line on rural development programs which provide assistance for rural utilities systems, business development, community facilities and housing—programs that otherwise would have seen draconian cuts under the President's FY07 request. We provide \$65 million to help us counter the avian flu threat. And having been alarmed by breakdowns in our food safety and drug safety processes these last few years—from Vioxx to spinach—I am pleased we were able to provide some increases in this bill to help us begin to restore public confidence in these areas—at the USDA and FDA.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, with this bill, we are sending the same message to the American people about their Congress. And so, I want to again commend my friend and chairman, Mr. OBEY, for doing remarkable work under the most difficult circumstances imaginable. It is time to put the public interest before the special interests. And with this bill, we take the first steps necessary to doing that. It is about time.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 808, ESTABLISHING THE DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 808, establishing the Department of Peace and Nonviolence.

At a time when we are spending hundreds of billions of dollars on the war in Iraq, which the majority of the American public no longer supports, there is a growing call for a diplomatic and political, in other words, a peaceful resolution to this conflict.

The establishment of the Department of Peace and Nonviolence, with its emphasis on education and dispute resolution through peaceful means, sends a clear message to our citizens and to the rest of the world that our country recognizes and values the peaceful resolution of conflicts and differences and that these methods should be emphasized to resolve conflicts at both the individual and national levels.

The Department of Peace is not a new idea. My esteemed and highly respected predecessor from the State of Hawaii, first Representative and then Senator Spark M. Matsunaga, proposed a similar institution 30 years ago as the Vietnam war waged on. After three decades of unresolved conflicts, worsening international relations, and seemingly endless wars around the world, the time has come to bring this great idea to life.

I fully support H.R. 808.

TRIBUTE TO GRACE CARTER DAWKINS

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Grace Carter Dawkins, a native of Greenville, GA. Mrs. Dawkins recently passed away, leaving behind a long legacy of compassion and spirited involvement in her community.

Mrs. Dawkins had a big heart and a willingness to help others. As a teacher in Newnan and Atlanta, she not only taught home economics and served as a class sponsor, but she helped sew prom dresses for the students and cooked up delicious meals for class banquets.

Grace was also deeply involved with her church, Brinson Chapel, where she lent her passion for service to the church's missionary, senior, and community outreach programs.

Madam Speaker, I've had the honor to experience Grace's generous personality firsthand, and I know her loving acts of kindness will be felt in Greenville for many years to come.

I also know Grace's husband, Robert, her sister, Gloria Carter Morris, and her three brothers, Rufus, Earnest, and Willie Carter, will keep her memory strong.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring the compassion, charity, and joy of Grace Carter Dawkins's life.

HONORING MRS. DAWN GASIOR OF ST. SYMPHOROSA SCHOOL

HON. DANIEL LIPINSKI

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding educator in my district, Mrs. Dawn Gasior. For 27 years, Mrs. Gasior has tirelessly served her students and the entire St. Symphorosa Parish community. As a result of her dedicated and enthusiastic efforts, she was recently nominated for the Archdiocese of Chicago's "Heart of the School" Award.

A long-time Clearing resident and student at St. Symphorosa from 1963 to 1971, Mrs. Gasior returned to the school in 1980 to establish a Kindergarten program and began teaching the second grade in 1984. Mrs. Gasior still teaches the second grade today and especially enjoys teaching the Sacraments. She not only provides valuable insight and moral guidance in the classroom, but also offers support to the parish through her work as a Eucharistic Minister.

The Archdiocese of Chicago's "Heart of the School" Award annually recognizes 14 teachers for their outstanding, unique, and innovative accomplishments. This year, the Archdiocese is acknowledging Mrs. Gasior in the area of Catholic School Identity and Mission for her work in the design and implementation of effective catechetical approaches in the curriculum and for her commitment to promoting peace and justice. Mrs. Gasior's nomination is a tribute to her work and a reflection of the

Chicago Archdiocesan pledge to develop educated, thoughtful, and moral students.

It is my honor to commend Mrs. Dawn Gasior for her achievements as an outstanding teacher and advocate of Catholic education. She, along with countless other educators, serves to enhance our overall education system—impacting one student at a time. I thank Dawn, along with all of our Nation's teachers, for their dedication, passion, and noble service.

LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL BOARD HAS FIRST BLACK MAJORITY

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to enter into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD an article in the New York Times announcing a majority African American School Board in Little Rock, AR. This is the first time since Federal troops enforced integration in 1957 that African Americans have earned a majority on the Little Rock School Board. As pronounced in the article, it is good to see that people are looking for a change.

The events that took place in Little Rock still stand as a testament to the spirit of resiliency abiding deeply within the African American community. Similarly, the decision to integrate in 1957 echoes our country's commitment to ultimately ensuring equality among all of our Nation's sons and daughters. In the same way that 1957 remains such a pivotal year in our Nation's history, I hope that these more recent events continue to shape future generations—moving away from things as usual, as the article states, toward viewing issues of importance from the perspectives of the people directly affected rather than by socially engineered categories like race, gender, and class.

Central to the article are the issues faced by students, skin color notwithstanding. It is important to understand that what this article highlights is not simply the need to recognize the gains made by African Americans in winning the majority of seats on the school board but rather the changes in minds and hearts necessary to move to a space where people are voted for because of their desire to preserve and protect the interest of the people they serve.

I applaud the efforts of Little Rock School Board members as well as members of the community.

[From the New York Times, Oct. 13, 2006]

LITTLE ROCK SCHOOL BOARD HAS FIRST BLACK MAJORITY

(By the Associated Press)

LITTLE ROCK, AR.—For the first time since federal troops enforced public school integration here by escorting a group of black students into Central High School 49 years ago, the Little Rock school board has a black majority.

Dianne Curry won a runoff election on Tuesday, meaning four of the Little Rock School District's seven board members are black. Ms. Curry defeated Tom Brock, who had been appointed to fill an unexpired term in February.

The district, which has 26,000 students, has been mostly black for years, but until now

has never had a black majority on the school board.

Until 1957, Little Rock had operated separate schools for blacks and whites. Despite an order from the United States Supreme Court, Gov. Orval E. Faubus sought to prevent nine black students from entering Central High, but President Dwight D. Eisenhower sent in the 101st Airborne to enforce the court's order.

Federal courts have monitored the desegregation effort since 1965.

Sixty-eight percent of the district's students are black, 24 percent are white, and Hispanics and Asians make up most of the remaining 8 percent. The population of Little Rock is mostly white, and there are many predominantly white private schools in the area.

The school district has sought to free itself from federal monitoring, but a judge maintained partial control after ruling two years ago that the district was not adequately appraising how well its academic programs helped black students.

Superintendent Roy Brooks is black, as is Robert Daugherty, the board's president.

"I think people are looking for a change," Mr. Daugherty said. "They're tired of things as usual, business as usual. They want people who are more in tune with the community, and I think that's what you see now."

Skip Rutherford, dean of the Clinton School of Public Service and a former board president, said that a black majority on the board was "probably long overdue."

Students will still come first, said Mr. Rutherford, who is white.

"I think the board members are going to vote much more on the content of their character than the color of their skin," he said. "Most people when they get on the school board tend to view issues not by color but by what's best for the students."

INTRODUCTION OF THE MARRIAGE TAX PENALTY PERMANENT ELIMINATION ACT OF 2007

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. WELLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to introduce the Marriage Tax Penalty Permanent Elimination Act of 2007. This important bill makes marriage tax relief permanent for the 48 million American married couples that benefit from the marriage tax relief enacted by Congress and signed into law in 2003.

Madam Speaker, if we do not act, in 2010 48 million hardworking married couples will face an annual tax increase which averages \$2,726. I am sure I speak for the married couples in my district and Illinois when I say that \$2,726 each year is a lot of money. In fact, if a couple were to put this money away each year to pay for the costs of a child's college education, without even earning interest they would have nearly \$50,000.

My legislation will ensure that marriage tax relief becomes permanent and 48 million American couples are not subject to a \$2,726 annual tax increase starting in 2010. I encourage my colleagues to join me in continuing the fight to guarantee that the values we hold most dear, marriage, family and hard work are treated fairly under our tax code.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Madam Speaker, on Monday, February 5, 2007, I was unavoidably detained and thus I missed rollcall votes Nos. 74 and 75.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GENE GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I was unable to attend two votes last night due to official business, hosting a paying for college workshop in my district.

I obtained an excused absence for this event, and I ask unanimous consent to include this personal explanation in the RECORD.

On February 5, 2007, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes No. 74 and No. 75.

On rollcall vote No. 74 to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution regarding National Consumer Protection Week, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 75 to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 74 and No. 75 I was unable to make the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both No. 74 and No. 75.

TRIBUTE TO FATHER ROBERT F. DRINAN, SJ

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 5, 2007

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to memorialize the recent passing and pay tribute to a great and former Member of this House, Father Robert Drinan. Many Members of this House have already praised his advocacy of human rights and women's rights, his efforts to uphold government morality, his role as an educator, and his commitment to his Catholic faith. I rise today to highlight and honor Father Drinan for a particular element of his human and civil rights advocacy work.

In 1981, as a former Congressman and noted advocate for social justice, Father Drinan was named to the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC). This commission was formed to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding Executive Order (EO) 9066 and the

impact of this order and the ensuing exclusion, relocation, and internment on American citizens and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry.

The CWRIC found that EO 9066 and the decisions that followed were not justified by military necessity, but shaped by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership. As a member of the commission, Father Drinan was among the most outspoken about the need to remedy the injustices done to these loyal Americans and permanent residents. Based on the CWRIC's findings and recommendations, Congress passed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided a national apology and redress to all surviving individuals who were excluded from their place of residence due to EO 9066.

The CWRIC and its findings are cited as historic and remarkable due to their impeccable credentials, solid research, and far-reaching influence. As such, we cannot understate the role of Father Robert Drinan in the proceedings and findings of this commission. He spoke for redress to former internees in his Congressional testimony on behalf of the commission. His testimony was truly instrumental in the passage of the Civil Liberties Act and sent a message to the Nation and the world that the U.S. Government is able to admit its mistakes and take responsibility in making reparations. In a speech before Congress in 1987, Father Drinan profoundly stated, "No U.S. Government may take away the liberty of its citizens, even in wartime, unless there is some clear and provable reason. Lacking any such reason, the deprivation of liberty of any U.S. citizen is a clear violation of the Constitution, which states in the 14th Amendment that no person may be deprived of 'life, liberty, or property without due process of law.'"

Father Drinan maintained his commitment to the causes of human rights, education, and promoting awareness of the triumphs and follies of U.S. history throughout his life and well after his tenure on the CWRIC. On the matter of Japanese American Internment, Father Drinan was among the founding board members of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund which was created by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 to fund educational and humanitarian purposes related to the wartime internment of Japanese Americans. As part of this board, Father Drinan ensured that we as a Nation never forget the mistakes in our history and are reminded to uphold the virtues of equality and justice for all.

Mr. Speaker, Father Robert Drinan has certainly impacted this Nation in innumerable ways, but I have been personally touched by Father Drinan's work and advocacy on behalf of the Japanese American community towards redress. Our Nation owes Father Drinan much honor, respect, and gratitude for his work to address the wrongs done to Japanese Americans during World War II and his tireless effort to ensure this Nation lives up to its own standards. He will be sorely missed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. ORTIZ. Madam Speaker, due to my attendance at a memorial service in my district,

I was unable to cast the following rollcall votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as indicated below.

Rollcall No. 74: "yea".

Rollcall No. 75: "yea".

HONORING TEMPLE COLLEGE

HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. CARTER. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the high level of success achieved by Temple College located in Temple, Texas. The Texas Bioscience Institute established by Temple College recently garnered the highest award offered by the Community College Futures Assembly, the distinguished Bellwether Award. The Bellwether Award is given to the highest achieving institute in workforce development. This award is given to only one community college each year, effectively recognizing the Texas Bioscience Institute as the finest workforce development institute at any community college. One chancellor from a California community college was so impressed with TBI he plans to emulate the institute at his school.

This award not only recognizes TBI's success; it is an indicator of the bright future of Temple College and the Texas Bioscience Institute. With this award comes the opportunity to apply for grants from the state and federal governments, ensuring the means for further successes from this institute. Not satisfied to rest on their laurels, the institute plans to increase the number of students by 50 percent to 150 and maintain the high level of teaching achievement they are known for. I am very proud of their work and am honored to represent such a fine academic institution as Temple College and their award-winning Texas Bioscience Institute.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES C. MILES

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, it is my distinct honor to remember the life of a proud Berks County resident, James C. Miles. James was born August 26, 1918, to Alfred and Grace Miles, and passed away on February 5, 2007, at the age of 88.

Born and raised in Reading, Pennsylvania, Mr. Miles graduated from Reading High School in 1936 and later joined the U.S. Army during World War II. Utilizing his experience with the famous Reading Railroad industry, Mr. Miles served in Northern Africa and Europe helping to repair the rail network in support of the advance towards Germany.

Mr. Miles was a member of the Advent Lutheran Church in West Lawn, Pennsylvania. In addition, Mr. Miles was a former President of the Wernersville VFW.

Mr. Miles was preceded in death by his wife of over 40 years, the former Marjorie Elizabeth High, whom he wed November 27, 1941, and who passed away on May 22, 1986. Surviving him are his two children, Larry E. (Catherine)

Miles of Wyomissing, Deborah (Michael) Shimko of Nazareth; five grandchildren, Kelly (Tony) Curtis of Glen Allen, VA, Jeffrey (Meredith) Miles currently serving at our Embassy in Mexico City, Mexico, Jennifer Miles of Chicago, IL, Michael and Mark Shimko of Nazareth; and three great-granddaughters, Caroline, Madelyn and Claire Curtis of Glen Allen, VA.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to remember and celebrate the life of James C. Miles. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his life and achievements here today.

NOW, MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED A DEPARTMENT OF PEACE

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, America needs a Department of Peace in order to have a peace-making capacity to match its war-making capacity. America should rely on preventive diplomacy, not on preventive war. We should work within the framework of international law, not defy it.

My first campaign for Congress, following the teaching of Dr. King, was based on "jobs, peace and justice." That remains my priority agenda. So I am proud to be an original co-sponsor of H.R. 808, Representative KUCINICH's bill to establish a Department of Peace and Non-Violence. At a time when the world is awash in war, he and Marianne Williamson, founder of the Peace Alliance, offer this modern vision of healing and preventing violence.

It could not be more timely. According to all reports, the Bush administration is debating whether to attack Iran or to find peaceful ways to deal with its nuclear program and its intervention in Iraq. The prospect of President Bush starting a "pre-emptive war" with Iran, on top of the tragedy in Iraq, is frightening. If that is not a compelling argument for creating a Peace Department, then I do not know what is.

We attacked Iraq because President Bush would not pursue peace and let U.N. inspectors complete their work. Instead, he distorted intelligence and failed to foresee the terrible consequences of that war. We must not repeat those mistakes in Iran, or anywhere else.

Last night, I spoke to an overflowing crowd that supports this measure and I told them what I tell my colleagues now. The best way to stop the war in Iraq is for the Congress to end our fighting there as soon as possible, and the best way to prevent wars with Iran and other adversarial nations is to establish a Department of Peace. We need a Cabinet Secretary focused like a laser on how to keep peace with Iran and constantly pressing the President to choose that strategy.

President Bush has already spent some \$2 trillion on the war in Iraq. Just think what we could have done with \$2 trillion spent on health care and education. That is another strong reason for the Department of Peace. A small fraction of that amount could also have funded a robust, proactive Department of Peace to analyze looming conflicts and to advise the President on how to diffuse them without war.

The most crucial point is what happens when the President and his top advisors confer in the Oval Office about an international crisis. We need a Cabinet member at that table who will forcefully and persistently advocate the peaceful options. Too often, the phrase "search for peace" is simply a political sound bite. President Bush assured us he was searching for peace, and that attacking Iraq was his "last resort," while he secretly plotted war. We need to ensure that war really is America's last resort.

Some of my colleagues may find this proposal interesting but feel they must deal with "more pressing matters." What is more pressing than preventing the violent deaths of our GI's and of our fellow human beings everywhere?

Some colleagues may think a Department of Peace is being offered as a substitute for our Armed Forces. That is not true. We realize that sometimes force proves necessary to protect our truly vital interests. A Peace Department would complement the Pentagon, not replace it, but a Peace Department would make war as rare as possible.

I remind those cynical about the absolute priority of pursuing machinery for peace that Gandhi, Dr. King and Nelson Mandela, who each pioneered paths of peace and non-violence, are now hailed worldwide as heroes of humanity.

INTRODUCTION OF THE RURAL COMMUNITIES INVESTMENT ACT, H.R. 833

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues of legislation I have introduced today to strengthen economies in rural America.

The legislation that I have proposed, The Rural Communities Investment Act, H.R. 833, extends tax initiatives to make the interest income on farm real estate and certain rural housing loans exempt from federal taxation.

Rural communities are facing sharp declines in population and business development due to urban migration and consolidation trends in U.S. agriculture. My bill would provide tax incentives to facilitate low cost financing options for farm and rural housing loans. More financing options will encourage greater competition among lenders and better rates for borrowers.

The Rural Communities Investment Act, first introduced as H.R. 4854 in the 109th Congress, has received the support of the Kentucky Bankers Association, a trade group representing the interests of thousands of bank employees across the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

I believe the incentives offered in The Rural Communities Investment Act will provide a solid foundation for new investment and economic stability in small town America, making rural communities affordable and attractive places to live and do business.

THE PASSING OF CHARLOTTE THOMPSON REID

HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. HASTERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of a former member of this House and one of my predecessors, Charlotte Thompson Reid, who passed away on January 25, 2007. For those of us from the Fox Valley who have since gone on to a life of public service, Charlotte Thompson Reid is an inspiration to us all and an example of how to serve the people you have been trusted to represent with the utmost integrity.

Known as the "Grand Lady of Aurora, Illinois," and "Charley" to her friends, Charlotte accomplished great things for her hometown of Aurora and the surrounding area. Her sparkling personality and just plain Midwest-friendliness is renown throughout all of Chicago land.

As I have said before on the floor of this House, her service in Congress overlapped with the beginning of my teaching career in Yorkville, Illinois and her outstanding record helped inspire me to seek public office in the late 1970s. In fact, Charley's endorsement and work on my behalf helped me get elected in 1986 during my first and toughest race.

After raising her family of four, she worked side by side with her husband Frank as he ran for the House of Representatives in 1962. When Frank suddenly died, she was elected in his stead. She won re-election in four terms bringing her solid Midwestern values to this House. Charlotte went on to be appointed to the F.C.C. where she served with distinction until the mid-70s and was later appointed by President Reagan to serve on the Presidential Task Force on International Private Enterprise from 1985–1987.

To be sure, Charley's surviving children (Patricia, Susan, and Frank), eight grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren, should be proud of the legacy she has left behind and carry her spirit for life with them in their journeys.

Madam Speaker, we are all indebted to Charlotte Thompson Reid for her energy, her gentle manner and what she meant for this country. I offer her family my sincere condolences during this difficult time and wish them the very best in the future.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Madam Speaker, during the month of February, we celebrate Black History Month. This year's theme is "From Slavery to Freedom: The Story of Africans in the Americas."

I would like to call the attention of my colleagues to a man who exemplifies the characteristics of a leader in the African American community. It is with great pride that I introduce and honor Farrell J. Chiles as he celebrates his 9th year as a member of Blacks In Government (BIG) and on completion of his

5th consecutive year as its Chairman of the Board.

In 2000, Mr. Chiles began his leadership role within BIG as the President of the Los Angeles/Long Beach Area Chapter. The following year, he was elected to the board of directors of the National Organization.

In 2000, Mr. Chiles became the Chairman of the Board and has been re-elected for 4 consecutive years. During his chairmanship, the organization has grown and achieved remarkable successes.

Mr. Chiles is also a Life Member of the NAACP and the ROCKS, Inc., and an associate member of the Tuskegee Airmen, Inc.

Mr. Chiles is presently employed with the Department of the Army, at the 63rd Regional Readiness Command in Los Alamitos, California where he serves as the Division Chief of the Human Resources Division. He is a member of the United States Army Reserve, a Vietnam Veteran, and was mobilized for a year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

He is a Life member and former board member of the United States Army Warrant Officers Association. Mr. Chiles is also a Life Member of the Reserve Officers Association. During Black History Month in 2005, he presented a report at its MidWinter Conference entitled "African American Warrant Officers—In Service to their Country—Their History, Achievement, and Contributions to the Military and the United States." This year, his presentation is on African American Warrant Officers during World War II.

Mr. Chiles served on the 37th Congressional District's Veterans Congressional Council and is a Life Member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

It is my sincere hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring and recognizing Mr. Chiles and his significant accomplishments throughout his career, his leadership with Blacks In Government, and his service to the African American community and his country.

HONORING THE DIOCESE OF ORANGE COUNTY

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Diocese of Orange County which has recently celebrated its 30th anniversary and thank Bishop Tod Brown for his leadership of the Diocese.

The Diocese of Orange was established in 1976 after 200 years of presence by the Catholic Church symbolized by the Mission at San Juan Capistrano built in 1776.

Since its original charter, The Diocese of Orange has always stood for justice and peace and has grown with Orange County providing immeasurable service to the community.

The Diocese has a hand in the education of over 65,000 students from elementary through high school instilling values of community involvement and a strong moral compass.

The Diocese has also provided assistance to over 400,000 patients through its clinics, health centers, and hospitals in Orange County.

On top of these services, the Catholic Diocese has been a beacon of hope for the underprivileged in Orange County and always provides help to those in need.

The Diocese has united a culturally diverse group of people, including my Vietnamese and Latino communities, through faith, love and understanding. The Church has always been welcoming and I thank them for their service.

IN RECOGNITION OF ST.
BARTHOLOMEW CATHOLIC SCHOOL

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate St. Bartholomew Catholic School in Columbus, Indiana for receiving the Department of Education's 2006 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon School Award.

St. Bartholomew Catholic School is among only 250 schools in the Nation to receive the Blue Ribbon School Award, and 1 of 14 schools in Indiana honored with the award. The award recognizes the high academic achievements of the students.

The Blue Ribbon School Award is a testament to the hard work and dedication demonstrated by the students, parents, teachers, and administrators of St. Bartholomew Catholic School, including its Principal Kathy Schubel. This school has become a model for other Indiana schools for its academic excellence.

It is my honor and privilege to recognize St. Bartholomew Catholic School for its out-

standing achievement in preparing our Hoosier children for their future opportunities. I urge St. Bartholomew Catholic School to continue to be a shining example of superior leadership, and continue its commitment to excellence in education.

INTRODUCING THE HAWAIIAN
HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY
ACT OF 2007

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of legislation I am proud to introduce today. The Hawaiian Homeownership Opportunity Act of 2007 is the exact same language of H.R. 5851, reported out of the House Financial Services Committee on September 28, 2006, in the 109th Congress.

The measure reauthorizes existing Native Hawaiian housing programs for 5 years and makes two adjustments to the program that will allow the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to help more Native Hawaiians whose incomes are equal to or less than 80 percent of the median income.

In 2000 Congress passed legislation authorizing the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, to provide block grants for affordable housing for Native Hawaiians through the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands. The 2000 measure also authorized HUD home loan guarantees for low-income Native Hawaiians. Eligible borrowers include Native Hawaiian families, the Depart-

ment of Hawaiian Home Lands, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and private nonprofit organizations experienced in planning and developing affordable housing for Native Hawaiians.

The Hawaiian Home Ownership Opportunity Act of 2007 reauthorizes these programs and adds a new provision authorizing loan guarantees for home mortgage refinancing. This introduces greater flexibility and allows families to take advantage of lower interest rates as millions of other American families have. The measure would also permit the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to issue bonds. This will allow the Department to service more low-income families without a large increase in appropriations.

This bill is about homeownership; this is not welfare or public assistance. It offers another tool for a family to provide for a basic need, housing. This is unbelievably important in Hawaii where land is scarce and the median home price on the island of Oahu is \$639,000 and the median condominium price is \$310,000. This measure will advance our efforts to address housing affordability in the islands.

I would like to thank the House Financial Services Committee Chairman BARNEY FRANK and Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS who have been extremely supportive in dealing with the housing problems of Hawaii. I would also like to recognize my colleague from Hawaii, Congresswoman MAZIE HIRONO, who, like Chairman FRANK and Chairwoman WATERS, is a cosponsor of this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to help the residents of Hawaii and support this legislation.